

Sustainable Society

Concerning the often voiced comment that it is easier to destroy than to create:

Seriously, the universe is in a constant state of change. The human concept of "things" goes against the natural flow of the universe. We see "things" in three dimensions but they are actually a flow of change in four dimensions. We see the acorn, the oak tree and the wooden table as three separate "things" but the acorn becomes the oak tree which, in time, becomes the wooden furniture. Physicists like to say "nothing is created or destroyed, it merely changes its form" - but that little phrase "merely changes" is what the universe is all about. Art, unlike physics, is concerned with everything which can be created and destroyed. I destroy a ball of clay by shaping it into the form of a head. In physics it's still the same mass of atoms called "clay" but the ball is destroyed and the sculpture is created. Building and tearing down are different aspects of the same flow of change in four dimensions. Therefore we would have an easier time of it if our constructions were designed to be part of nature instead of against it.

We need to think in sustainable "time aware" concepts. When we build something we need to be thinking of what it will be and what it will look like 20 years from now or 50 years from now. Sustainability in the construction industry must take account of the processes of nature and adapt accordingly. Also the changing needs of society.

We wouldn't need to keep tearing down structures if the structures were designed to be adaptable. A modular design would be good. Something which can be re-arranged and the components reused or recycled.